

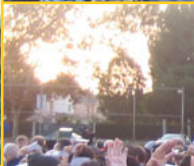
Centennial Kick-Off – Lights, Camera, Action!



Photos Courtesy
Jun Hong Park



Aerial photos by
David Moyle



More than 2500 people braved inclement weather and chilly temperatures to participate in the Kick-Off event dubbed, "Lights, Camera, Action!" at Wilson Park late Sunday afternoon, November 6, 2011. The event is the first in a series of events planned over the next twelve months celebrating the City's Centennial.

Organizers invited the public to Wilson Park to be a part of a gigantic illuminated human sign, "Torrance 1912 – 2012" to be photographed by the Good Year Blimp and Robinson Helicopter. The historic photo will

be put in a time capsule. Pelican Products, a Torrance based corporation, provided a selection of flashlights that doubled as a souvenir of the event as each one was imprinted, "Torrance Centennial 1912 – 2012". Mayor Scotto guided the festive crowd through a rehearsal with colored paper standing in for flash light beams in the waning daylight. The Blimp was a no-show due to the wet weather but Robinson Helicopters provided the means for the very long shot.

Many City employees participated in the event and brought family and friends.



HR's Lina Dominguez (2nd from right) was in charge of the event assisted by John Kalinski, Scott Villalva and Jared Robison.

Annual Employee Benefits & Ride Share Event

October 12's Annual Employee Benefits and Ride Share Expo was a big hit with employees who attended in large numbers. In addition to getting information from all the City's benefits providers and City Departments, employees lined up for free flu shots,

blood analysis, bone density scans and skin damage assessments. Employees were treated to cold drinks, free kettle corn and fruit from the Farmer's Market and opportunities to win scads of fun prizes and pick up neat premiums, who doesn't need a miniature trash barrel?

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FLUSHOT



Holiday Giving

Join the Fun and Enjoy the Spirit of Giving!

The Holiday Can Tree is already set-up and ready to receive in the main lobby of the West Annex. Let's load it up with non-perishable foods. Perishables can be brought in before 9:00a.m. on Tuesday, November 15 & Tuesday, December 13.

You can "Adopt an Angel" to provide gifts for children in low income families at any one of five locations; City Manager's Office, Finance, Katy Geissert Civic Center Library, Police Department and Public Works. Pick up an Angel tag, purchase from the list, gift wrap is optional, and return the items with the Angel tag taped on the outside of the package, by Thursday, December 15 at 9:00 a.m.

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CALENDAR

11.24.11

Turkey Trot Fun Run

NOW – 12.15.11

Christmas Giving –Angel
Trees/Can Drive

1.2.12

Centennial 10K Run/5K
Run/Walk & Kids Dash

1.2.12

Tournament of Roses Parade

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Annual Variety Show - Talent, Talent, Talent!



The 13th Annual Torrance Employee Variety Show was another rousing success this past September raising \$7782.01 for the American Cancer Society. The team of regulars entertained with skits and songs and some newcomers shone in the spotlight at the Armstrong Theater. Alex Hattori, an amazing 13 year-old Yo-Yo prodigy had the audience whooping with delight, North High's Dance Crew Hipped and Hopped like mad, Joshua Roberson gave everyone religion with his gorgeous gospel singing, Brian Sunshine put on a dress for the cause. . . again,

and the Torrelles and the Vipers treated the audience to a medley of vintage musical numbers.

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Moments in Torrance History

By: Michael George

Ninety years ago the first "real motion picture theater" opened in Torrance on October 5, 1921. According to their ad in the Torrance Herald, they only showed "high-class" features accompanied by a "\$13,000 Robert Morton Organ" played by Geo. W. King.

Tickets were sold in advance of the first show so no one would have to stand in line. Conspicuous in its absence, is the address of the theater, apparently, everyone knew where it was. The Torrance Theater was built at the corner of Sartori and Marcelina, 1403 Marcelina, where the Wells Fargo Bank stands today.

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Announcing the

GRAND OPENING

OF THE NEW

Torrance Theatre

Wednesday Night, October 5th at 7:00 P. M.

SHOWING ONLY HIGH-CLASS FEATURE PRODUCTIONS

\$13,000

Robert Morton Organ

—GEO. W. KING

AT THE CONSOLE

NOTE—For opening performances at 7:00 P. M. and 9:00 P. M., tickets limited to the capacity of the Theatre. ONLY will be sold so that persons will not have to stand in line for other performances.

TICKETS FOR BOTH PERFORMANCES ON SALE AT BOX OFFICE, MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, AT 10:00 O'CLOCK A. M.

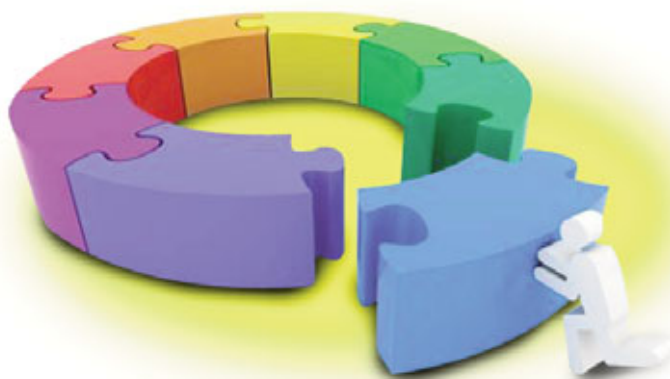
THEATRE OPEN FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION MONDAY AND TUESDAY

Photo— Torrance Herald Announcement.

Put the Pieces of your Retirement Puzzle Together

“Great West offers some great resources to help navigate the very challenging waters of retirement,” says City Treasurer Dana Cortez. “For those willing to collect all the information required to truly determine if they are ready for retirement at every level or for employees who want a general idea if they are on track and, if not, how to get there, Great West has help at no cost!. This is a great deal for our employees.”

Deferred Compensation is here to help you put the pieces together. You know you have pieces of the puzzle scattered about, but where do they all fit? How can you put it all together? Do you have enough money to live on in retirement or do you have a gap? What about CalPERS, Social Security and other retirement? Does your partner have assets and retirement too? There are so many questions and we can help you put it together.



Deferred Compensation has many tools available, including the Reality Investing® suite of services which include showing an analysis of whether you are on track to meet your retirement income goal, and if you are ready for the next step, we can prepare a financial plan for you to take care of the rest of your financial goals. Get started on your Plan's web site at www.tor-rance457.com. Then, contact your local Great-West Retirement Services® representative Carol Say at (800) 382-8924 to find out more. There are lots of tools available to help you find out where you are and where you should be and how to get there!

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New Employees

7/11 - 10/11

City Treasurer

Edelma Campos
Deputy City Treasurer

Human Resources

Andres Islas
Home Improvement
Program Coordinator

CIT

Ryan J. Liebenberg
Info Technology Analyst

Police

Alaina Clark
Joseph Craft
Kyle Quintero

Police continued

Hector Salas
Gregory Small
Police Officer

Krishna Patel
Sr. Forensic ID Specialist

Public Works

Christopher Hale
Virak Var
Traffic Signal Technician

Rolando Bernal
Water Service Tech I

Retirees

7/11 - 10/11

Name	Title	Ret Date	Years of Svc.
Kendall Carter	Battalion Fire Chief	7/30/2011	31
Elisabeth Collier	Police Services Officer	8/12/2011	37
Daniel Cullen	Traffic Painter	8/19/2011	31
Thomas Dorsey	Police Officer	10/4/2011	30
Jennifer Gough	Systems Analyst	6/8/2011	11
Shirley Green	Police Records Technician	9/14/2011	24
Donald Litts	Senior Grading Inspector	8/11/2011	19
Cindy Palfi	Police Records Technician	10/2/2011	13
May Ramos	Accountant	8/15/2011	10
David Shaver	Maintenance Worker	9/30/2011	11
Thomas Witherill	IT Specialist	9/22/2011	15

Promotions

7/11 - 10/11

Police

Rodney Irvine
Police Captain

Luz Aceves
Police Operations Supervisor

Vanessa Ryan
Secretary

Public Works

Anthony Smith
Traffic Signal Technician

Lea Reis
Associate Engineer

General Services

Allen Rollins
Lead Maintenance Worker

Community Services

Hillary Theyer
City Librarian

Elizabeth Vela
Secretary

Dana Vinke
Janice Wierzbicki
Principal Librarian

Healthy Holidays

Courtesy of
Kaiser Permanente



- Enjoy holiday foods in smaller portions. Use lower-fat substitutes in recipes. Increase activity to balance extra calories.
- Start a new holiday tradition. Take time with your family and friends to walk, dance, skate, ski and sled together.
- Bring a healthy dish to share at holiday parties or eat a light snack before you go. Use a small plate and only fill it once.

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City Employees/Community Volunteers

As we enter the “Season of Giving” many City employees will make contributions to community food banks and donate items to needy families. (See page 3 for this year’s giving opportunities.) However, many City employees give their time and effort to volunteering in the City throughout the year, some are Torrance residents and some come to support their workday community. We talked to four City employees who volunteer at the annual Coastal Clean-Up Day billed as the largest volunteer day on the planet.

IB

Denise Aoki (top right) with grandson Braden and daughter, Erin.



Denise Aoki, Senior Administrative Assistant, Community Development

“I bring my family and friends to help and participate at the Clean-Up. It is exciting to see how the participant numbers increase every year and fun to greet them. We had 760 participants this year. I’ve helped for three years and feel good about helping to educate the public about the consequences of littering.”

Malisa (left) & Team Captain Cynthia Rosell



Malisa Broesamle, Public Works, Streetscape, Secretary

“I live in Lakewood but I’ve volunteered at the Beach Clean-Up for the past 3 years. It can be a bit chaotic getting things set-up, organizing the public into groups, giving the safety talk, and distributing and collecting the data cards from our volunteers. I ended up being one of the speakers the first year I volunteered; we use an outline from Heal the Bay and let people know how to participate in the event safely. This year I brought my 4-year-old who had a great time playing with the other volunteer’s kids in a big sand hole. The beach is always beautiful and it’s great to talk with the public face to face.”

Photos courtesy of Sunny Lai



Sunny & Janus Lai

Sunny Lai, Community Development, Engineer Tech III –

I have volunteered for the annual beach clean ups since I began working at the City. It was one of my first opportunities to get involved with the community while learning more about the City and my role as a City employee. I work with a great team and enjoy volunteering and supporting important causes. The Beach Cleanup is one of my favorites

and I hope to serve as beach captain at a future event. My wife joins me to help and we are always eager to work in whatever capacity needed. At the beach cleanups, she typically works at the supply and sign in tables, while I assist wherever needed and serve as the official photographer as I do for nearly every event like the City Yard Open House, Environmental Fair and Employee Variety Show. It’s great to capture moments at the events when the participants are having fun.

Oscar Martinez, Community Development, Planning Associate

“I enjoy helping the community, especially with environmental projects. I usually work down on the beach, keeping people safe, off the steep hills and answering questions about potentially dangerous trash that people find. My wife comes along to help at the supply tables and friends usually show up to help in the clean-up. I feel good about participating in an event that is also sponsored by Heal the Bay.”



Oscar Martinez

Torrance TRIVIA

Last Issue's Question:

"Century City in Torrance", 1967 was a boom year in Torrance, plans were laid for a major building project. The plans included a monorail, three major high-rise office buildings, and unique auxiliary buildings set in park like surroundings. Can you name the project and how much of it was actually built?

Answer: **The Del Amo Financial Center.** The Union Bank Tower and auxiliary buildings were completed, about a third of the originally planned project.

Congratulations to **Ted Symons** who gave us the correct answer.

New Question:

Volunteering was, and is, a big part of the Torrance spirit. What was the first volunteer, in fact one of the first organizations of any kind, in the fledgling city of Torrance??

Please email your answers to: **JanetStancliff3@gmail.com**

Thanks to **Michael George** for contributing the Torrance Trivia questions and answers.

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Submit all game responses, employee news and calendar items to: **JanetStancliff3@gmail.com**

Spend a few minutes talking with Hillary Theyer, Torrance's new City Librarian, and you might find yourself wishing you, too, were a librarian! Theyer's contagious enthusiasm for the myriad of information found at a public library is in her DNA. Raised by a family of educators, she found a summer job at the local public library in Beverly Hills. Theyer stayed on part-time through high school and summers between her undergraduate studies at University of California Santa Cruz. "I was allowed to organize programs and materials. Eventually they let me experiment, really stretch my wings, it was a wonderful opportunity," said Theyer.

Half way through her studies at Santa Cruz, Theyer switched her major from Education to Library Science. After graduation, she went straight into the Masters program at University of California Los Angeles. "The program is for all kinds of libraries. We studied management, cataloging, classification and how to put records into an online system. We graduated with the skills to do our job using diverse software and systems."

Theyer began her career as a children's librarian in Sacramento and then Palos Verdes, finally landing in Torrance in 1999. She managed various branch libraries for seven years then promoted to Principal Librarian of Public Services for four years. She became the acting City Librarian in January, 2011 and received the official promotion to that position this past July. Along the way, Theyer also managed to earn another Master's Degree from California State Long Beach, this one in Public Administration.

"I think the Torrance Library system is the perfect size," said Theyer, "While shrinking budgets are forcing

What it Takes Hillary Theyer City Librarian



other cities to cut services and close facilities, we are managing to maintain a high level of service in our recently renewed library buildings. Of course, we have made cuts and plan more, but, we have a big base of support from the public, city management and elected officials who all see the value in what the library provides to the community. Managing this magnificent library is a heavy responsibility and we are investing serious consideration in planning changes that will affect its future."

Despite predictions of the demise of libraries and books, it seems there are more people using the resources of the public library than ever. Technology has brought change to the methods used by the wonderful Torrance Library staff but according to Theyer, the essence of the Public Library hasn't changed since Benjamin Franklin opened the first one over 200 years ago. "A public library is the great equalizer," she said, "It provides access to information, resources and media to all."

The real trick is to know how to parse down what the customer says they want and discover what it is they really need. Librarians don't know all the answers, but, we know how to find them" she said.

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